



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


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GOVERNOR

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

May 26, 2015

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Presentation on School Breakfast Challenge and Summer Food Service Program Updates

The Office of School Support Services works to increase access to and compliance with the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Child Nutrition Programs such as the School Breakfast Program and the Summer Food Service Program. Research shows a direct relationship between good nutrition and learning. Assuring children have access to school breakfast and meals during the summer months is a key building block in Michigan to develop healthy kids who are ready to learn. Increased child-centered focus, coupled with strong technical assistance, has driven increased participation in both programs.

The first school breakfast challenge, which began back in 2008, helped drive a 30% increase in school breakfast participation. The second school breakfast challenge, which will end in July of this year, has also driven up participation through promoting the best practices of moving breakfast out of the cafeteria and into the classroom during instructional time or into the hallway during class change periods. Two key partners, the United Dairy Industry of Michigan and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, have been key to assuring schools have the equipment and other resources needed to increase access to school breakfast for all Michigan children.

Michigan is one of only a few states that has been selected as a 2014-2015 Summer Food Service Program Target State by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service. Michigan was chosen due to the strong partnerships the Michigan Department of Education's team has built with local agencies to promote summer meals for children which mirror key national partnerships. This designation as a target state will help to highlight the continued effort that such partnerships can bring to other states across the nation.

The presentation to the State Board of Education will include updates on progress made to increase participation in both programs, as well as special recognition of key partners.

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